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SOUTH CAROLINA'S NEWSWEEKLY

February 14
Twenty-Five

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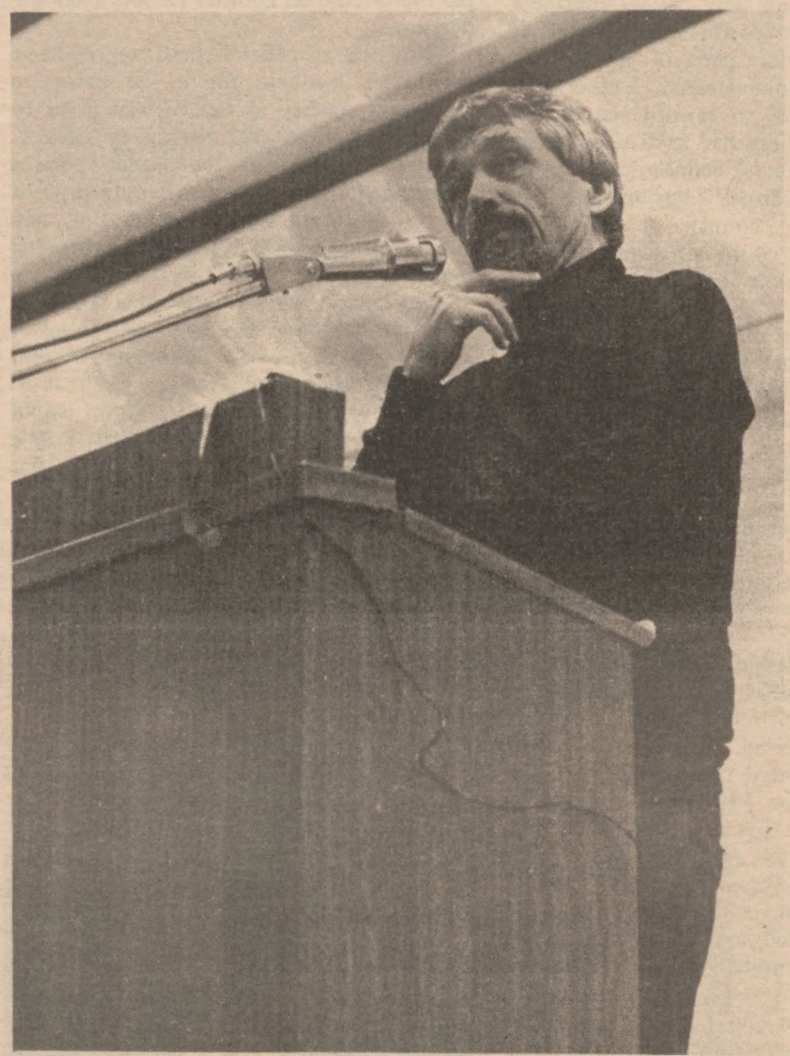

Berrigan

On the road with Berrigan

by Michael Bane

It's almost midnight and so far the party shows no sign of ebbing. Neither, for that matter, does Dan Berrigan. He moves through the nattily attired crowd with an ever-so-slight air of amusement, almost of studied boredom, pausing to shake hands with this doctor or that judge or some other fellow priest and engage in a few moments' small talk. Yes, brother Phillip is doing fine in a commune in Baltimore. No, he hadn't stopped his resistance to the Vietnam War, which was still going on with American money, by the way. Yes, wouldn't it be wonderful if another antiwar movement came along to unite the campuses again. Yes, he would teach a course in Detroit this winter. No, he didn't realize how all-pervasive the ROTC was in junior high schools. And yes, wasn't the pea soup superb?

Father Daniel Berrigan, I conclude, is the ideal cocktail party guest.

(Continued on page five)

SCE&G hearings: going for broke

by Carl Baab

Upstairs, downstairs. Upstairs it was warm and the arguments were good, some even bordering on eloquent. Downstairs it was cold and wet.

Upstairs was room 704 of the Owen Building on Lady Street in Columbia, site of the current Public Service Commission (PSC) hearings to determine if South Carolina Electric and Gas (SCE&G) customers will continue paying an almost 25 percent utility rate increase implemented by the company last August. Downstairs was the sidewalk area directly in front of the Owen Building.

Upstairs South Carolina's affluent businessmen and lawyers assembled to argue the pros and cons of the rate-hike continuation, and numerous irate SCE&G customers gathered to clap or boo. Downstairs were gathered those who couldn't afford to pay their utility bills.

Upstairs the arguments were skillful--people accustomed to audiences made lawyer-like arguments and pleas that the utility company had to hold the rates down. And on the other side, clad in charcoal-vested suit and white shirt and blue tie, SCE&G president Arthur Williams talked about the "hard financial facts."

Downstairs those not familiar with audiences and not so exquisitely clad had their terse arguments scribbled on signs--signs that were eventually bowed by the wind and made soggy by the rain before finally being abandoned.

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The few who had gathered downstairs were reluctant at first to talk to the press, but when they did, one middle-aged man--Richard Davis of 201 Summerlea Drive-- said, "We're being ripped off. Until they (SCE&G) exercise better business judgment they don't deserve the increase. Why advertise a monopoly? And when they (SCE&G) have a legal department of five people, why do they have to hire state legislators to represent them in legal matters."

Another Columbia man, Paul Price of 228 Tryon Street, agreed with Davis, saying, "People are just sick and tired of it. Their (SCE&G's) employees get an hour-and-a-half off for lunch, and I only get 30 minutes."

Vern Case, a Columbia resident since 1965 and living on a fixed income, said, "They (SCE&G) take just about all our income for the electric bill. My light bill just

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—press critic A.J. Liebling

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Politicus

The mood around the State House Thursday was, well, strange. Several leaders of the House fight for a strong ethics bill were unexpectedly glum, despite the fact that an hour earlier, much of what they had been struggling for had been passed by the House. True, several key provisions concerning financial disclosure had been weakened, and the ethics bill passed on third reading was undeniably vague and poorly worded on certain points. But an ethics bill, a flawed but still moderately strong one, *had* been passed by the House.

Why the lack of enthusiasm? No doubt it was the realization that what came out of the House wouldn't necessarily be what would be sent to the governor's office for approval after a joint Senate-House conference committee melds the two chambers' versions together. In fact, many Representatives, both advocates and opponents of strong ethics legislation, felt that the House ethics bill would be considerably watered down before leaving the State House for good. One got the impression that many Representatives had only voted for the measure Thursday because they felt strongly that the final product that would emerge would be much more amenable to their tastes.

One Representative who had been a strong backer of full financial disclosure, Bill Campbell of Richland County, was vaguely disconcerted after the bill was passed. It wasn't that the bill wasn't strong enough or inclusive enough he said, but that the contents of the bill would be hindered by "poor wording."

Henry Floyd (D-Pickens), another House member who had been trying to put teeth into the ethics bill, said he was satisfied with the bill that was finally passed. "It covers the kinds of things the public ought to know about," he explained, "but it doesn't let the public know every little thing." But Floyd's manner bespoke less enthusiasm about the bill than his words conveyed, and he admitted that many of the provisions he and his colleagues had fought to keep in the bill stood a considerable chance of being thrown out eventually.

Countenances said what words could or did not. The impression one gathered from the disgruntled reformers was, "Well, we got *something* passed. It's not going to eliminate all corruption and all influence peddling, but it's a step in the right direction. Too bad it's likely to go down the drain. That's what makes it so difficult to work your tail off -- knowing that somewhere along the line, whatever you've accomplished is going to be emasculated or just plain forgotten."

Last week, the House adjourned in the midst of a heated debate over how extensive disclosure should be for the public officials concerned by the bill. Rep. I.S. Leevy Johnson (D-Richland), one of the House's more influential black members, had led an effort to throw out disclosure completely. Had Johnson and others been successful, the ethics bill would have lost much of its impact, for the Ethics Commission would have had to rely on voluntary disclosure of financial interests. Voluntary disclosure hasn't worked in the past, though, and there's no reason to assume that it would prevent conflicts of interest in the future.

Fortunately, most of Section 15, the provision in the bill laying out what must be included in the Statement of Economic Interests each public official or candidate for public office must file, was kept intact. As set forth in the original Judiciary Committee bill, all public officials or candidates would still have to disclose all their economic interests, real estate holdings, and money received from businesses regulated by the state's regulatory agencies -- the Public Service Commission, the Insurance Commission, the Board of Bank Control, the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission and the Department of Health and Environmental Control.

But in order to retain most of the clout of Section 15, a compromise was necessary. Several Representatives, most notably Johnson and Rep. Charles Hodges (D-Horry), feared that full disclosure would require them to disclose the economic interests of their families. A number of members followed their cue.

It was Bobby Kneece and Jean Toal to the "rescue." Kneece, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee which drew up the ethics bill, and Toal worked out a series of compromise amendments to narrow the scope of economic interests that the bill would require to be disclosed. The compromises redefined "economic interest" to mean any *direct* business dealings, and inserted the word "directly" into the appropriate parts of Section 15. After all the smoke cleared, Kneece and Toal had managed to reword the bill so that no public official had to disclose his or her family members' economic interests, and a lot of "indirect" business dealings with the state, county or municipal governments that could conceivably enrich those officials were excluded from the aegis of the bill.

News accounts of the ethics bill have generally been somewhat sketchy as to all that this wide-ranging legislation would cover. Below are some of the more important points.

--A state Ethics Commission would be established, with six members -- one from each Congressional district -- appointed by the governor and confirmed by the General Assembly. Each commissioner would serve no more than two consecutive four-year terms.

--Gifts or contributions of "anything of value" to public officials for the purpose of influencing the official's votes or actions would be prohibited. A person or group would be prohibited from giving a public official more than $100 in gifts during a one-year period. However, this would not apply to gifts to an official from any government agencies, or from relatives.

--All campaign contributions must be recorded and filed with the State Ethics Commission. Candidates for elective or appointive offices must keep records, for public inspection and current within five days, of anyone contributing $100 or more to their campaign; a complete list of these contributors must be filed with the Ethics Commission within 30 days after the election or appointment.

--Candidates must also file a report with Ethics Commission after the election detailing how much was spent on the campaign, for what, how much money is left in the campaign treasury, and how the remaining funds will be used.

--No one can pay a public official any money for his official services other than his salary. (This is aimed at limiting influence-peddling.)

--Public officials cannot sell confidential information or reveal it in order to enrich themselves.

--Officials associated with businesses regulated by one of the state regulatory agencies cannot be appointed to that regulatory agency. Thus, for instance, a power company official could not be appointed to the Public Service Commission.

--Any official who must take action or make a decision that would *substantially* affect his own economic interests must notify the Ethics Commission. If possible, the official should disqualify himself on the matter and let another person make the decision.

--No public official shall represent a person or business *for a fee* before a regulatory agency if the official helps to elect or appoint that regulatory agency. Obviously aimed at the Public Service Commission, this provision would prevent lawyer-legislators from representing any clients (either public utilities or consumers) before the PSC.

--No person whose business is regulated by a state agency can give "anything of value" to a member or employee of that regulatory agency. This clause, similar to one in the Senate ethics legislation, would end free telephone service for Public Service Commissioners, among other things.

--All current or would-be public officials and legislative employees making over $15,000 must file statements of economic interest with the Ethics Commission. Failure to do so would result in elective candidates' names being dropped from the ballot, appointive candidates' ratification

(Continued on page seven)

Bobby Kneece

Campbell (left), Toal and Rep. Ramon Schwartz (foreground)

Help for the consumer

It's nice to know that South Carolina isn't the only state having problems with its electrical and gas rates. Way up yonder in New York, burgeoning utility bills have become such an issue that the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) has published a booklet telling consumers how to fight back.

Entitled "How to Challenge Your Gas or Electric Bill," the 16-page pamphlet is the first of a series of so-called "Wise Guides" which the consumer group is publishing. NYPIRG is part of the national Public Interest Research Group, a non-partisan research and advocacy group funded largely by college students. (South Carolina also has a PIRG chapter, with branches at several colleges and universities, but it is relatively small.)

"How to Challenge Your Gas or Electric Bill," though designed for New Yorkers, nonetheless has some very good tips for all consumers who think their power companies may be overcharging them. The booklet includes information on how to file a complaint and with whom, what rights consumers have in challenging the power companies, how to tell if your meter is working properly, and so on.

We've tried to glean from the booklet some procedures and ideas that might be helpful to our consumer-readers. They're listed below.

--If you think you are being overcharged for gas or electricity, the first place you should go is to the power company. Ask them to check your meter to see if it is functioning properly, and ask them to see also whether you were billed for the correct amount.

--Based on the assumption that the top levels of management are the people most concerned with customer and public relations, you may find you'll get faster and better results from a letter to the president of the company than by complaining to a low-rank employee. Even if the president isn't delighted to hear from you, chances are he'll listen to you.

--If you can't get any response to your problem from the power company, try the Public Service Commission. Ask them to do an independent test on your electric or gas meter to verify that it is operating properly. --Whenever filing a complaint, whether in person or by telephone, there are several things you should do. Have all essential information that the PSC or the company might want, such as a full explanation of the complaint, the location of your meter, and a description of any action taken so far on the complaint by you, the power company, or the PSC.

--Keep careful records of meetings or conversations pertaining to your complaint, including the date, time, who was present, and what was said.

--When mailing documents, *always* send copies, keeping the originals for your own records.

--If you must attend any hearings on a complaint, you are entitled to have a friend or lawyer accompany you. It's a good practice to have someone with you, to tie up any loose ends you might forget and, more importantly, to be a witness for what happens.

One important thing to remember is to be certain that your complaint is valid and legitimate. For instance, if you think your meter is malfunctioning or power is being drained off of your line by someone else, turn off ALL your lights and appliances; if the meter is still registering, have a registered electrician check it.

Additional copies of the NYPIRG booklet are available for 50 cents by writing to NYPIRG, 5 Beekman St., Room 410, New York, N.Y. 10038. Or, better still, you could try to talk local consumer groups into producing a similar publication aimed at helping South Carolina consumers.

More power to you.

R.W.T.

SCE&G rate hearings

(Continued from page one)

keeps going up and up."

A woman, Linda Nichols of Dentsville, said, "I think it's a mess...utterly ridiculous. Everybody's complaining. It's about time they (SCE&G) took us into consideration."

Ilse Sammon, also a Columbia resident, said, "I've just come back from a visit to Pennsylvania and we're paying more than they do. If they (SCE&G) can't handle the job, it ought to be turned over to the state or federal government. The customer just has no protection. They (SCE&G) know you have to have it (electric and gas service). If you don't pay for it they turn it off and then charge you even more to turn it back on."

Other members of the downstairs crowd complained that they didn't think the utility company correctly monitored their meters. One said, "I've caught 'em reading it from 20 feet away."

Though the crowd's complaints might seem less than unique and far less than eloquent, consumer outrage at the latest SCE&G increase will play a major role in the hearings now underway. Probably never before --and certainly not in a year when a majority of its members are up for re-election-- has so much attention been placed on the Public Service Commission. And while the utility will continue to argue that it cannot survive without a substantial increase, consumers are pleading their case both at the hearings and to individual legislators around South Carolina.

*****

The hearings began on February 4 and the upstairs room in the Owen Building overflowed with people and many in the crowd staked out postions in the hall. Inside, Aiken attorney Robert Bell presented the commission with a petition, reportedly listing 11,300 signatures, from Aiken citizens protesting the rate-hike continuation. On the other side, SCE&G attorney Harry Lightsey warned the commission, "This case involves the very economic life of this utility. The company and its consumers will suffer if this rate relief is not granted."

The first of what promised to be a long parade of SCE&G witnesses and utility-business experts was the sharply-attired Williams. Questioned by PSC attorney John Bowen, Williams said the utility had cut costs as much as possible, particularly in the area of new construction. But Williams contended the company can not control the cost of fuels, taxes and inflation -- the reason, he said, for the increase in customer rates. And Williams warned that even with the requested increase, the company's financial problems are not likely to end soon.

The audience, which numbered around 75, alternately clapped and booed as the opposing attorneys competed in preliminary jousting. When it became apparent that the room designated for the hearings could not accomodate everyone who had come to view the proceedings, complaints were voiced to commission attorneys. Counsel to the PSC then suggested that a larger room might be secured for future hearings, but apparently the commission will not change to a larger building until the public witness testimony begins later in February.

The hearings will continue through the end of the month in Columbia, but dates and places for hearings in other parts of the state have not been decided upon. Charleston, Sumter and Aiken are among the suggested sites. Scheduling of speakers and complete procedural rules have not been firmly established, but the commission had indicated that

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SCE&G goes for broke

(Continued from page three)

interested consumers will be allowed to speak before the commission simply by being present at the hearing. The only qualification on public testimony is that a limited number of persons will be allowed to reiterate the same points. Officials said that if such a situation develops, remaining persons will be allowed to sign a document showing support of the previous speakers' statements.

*****

In other related developments, a bill was introduced into the South Carolina House of Representatives that would require the PSC to hire ten inspectors to make spot checks on electric and gas meters around South Carolina to insure proper meter reading by utility companies.

Florence attorney and state representative Ralph King Anderson, who has criticized both the PSC and SCE&G and other utilities in the past, said the proposed law would show if consumer's power bills accurately reflect their meter readings. Discrepancies, according to the bill, would be reported to the PSC, which would then take action on behalf of the consumer.

Prior to Anderson's introduction of the bill, state representative Irene Rudnick of Aiken told the General Assembly that the public needed swift action from the legislature on any measures affecting utility rates and the PSC. Saying she had been "deluged" with calls from her constituents, Rudnick said the public generally indicated they disliked three things: SCE&G, the PSC, and the state legislature, though not necessarily in that order.

Cinema/Short takes

Animal Crackers. Marx Brothers film is as fresh and relevant as any current screen comedy (fresher than some), and contains such classic bits as Groucho's Strange Interlude and the song, "Hurray For Captain Spaulding." As usual, high society is the principal target – Groucho is a bogus African explorer at a Long Island house party – and the George S. Kaufman-Morrie Ryskind script provides some of the brothers' sharpest satire. One of their two or three best; a must for any Marx lover.

Cabaret. The plot is forgettable, the message superficial, but three powerhouse theatrical talents make this film a high good time and one of the best musicals of recent years. Liza Minelli and Joel Grey are cabaret performers in pre-Hitler Berlin, and director-choreographer Bob Fosse has provided them with some hot, jazzy numbers filmed in a beautiful, almost abstract style. Eight Academy Awards including photography (Geoffrey Unsworth), all deserved.

Blazing Saddles. Most of the routines in this Western spoof must have seemed funny on paper (i.e. the bad guys held up by a toll booth in the middle of the desert), but Mel Brooks' direction is crude and heavyhanded. If you're a Brooks fan, save your money until **Young Frankenstein** gets to town.

The Japanese Film. The best movies in town right now aren't playing at any theatre; they're available on your TV set. PBS has brought together some of the greatest masterpieces of Japanese filmmaking in this 13-week series, and the result is a rare look at another culture that should be of interest whether one is a film buff or not. Fine hosting by Edwin O. Reischauer and background material by Donald Ritchie among others. Sundays at 2 on ETV (Channel 35 in Columbia).

The Longest Yard may have to be retitled the Longest Run. People already nostalgic for the football season must be keeping up the weekly take on this one.

The Man With the Golden Gun. Roger Moore gets shot in the first five minutes of this new Bond film, and while it's only a plaster dummy, who can tell the difference? The plot is two hours of mind-deadening nonsense about saving the world from the energy crisis. Britt Ekland and Maud Adams offer passable visual distraction, but of course the real James Bond died when Sean Connery quit the series back in 1967.

Earthquake. A monster quake eats Los Angeles in this latest "disaster" film that goes beyond offensiveness to a new level of commercial corruption. This movie is so cynically contemptuous of its audience and itself that it is hard to enjoy it, even as camp. Sensurround is a rip-off, like the rest of the picture.

Towering Inferno promises to be as bad as Earthquake, but it turns out surprisingly well because its creators have had enough imagination to make the truly horrible events depicted emotionally meaningful.

The Godfather, Part II is not only better than the original **Godfather**, it may be one of the most powerfully imaginative American movies ever made, recalling in the size of its subject such masterpieces as **Citizen Kane** and **Intolerance**. It is basically Michael's story, but flashbacks to Vito Corleone as a child and young man transform this movie (together with its predecessor) into a unified epic of American life in the 20th Century. After this film and **The Conversation**, Francis Ford Coppola is unquestionably the most exciting director now working in this country.

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On the road with Daniel Berrigan

Berrigan

(Continued from page one)

A few latecomers still trickle into the revitalized Southern mansion in Charlotte's Myers Park, an oak-sheathed island of Old South in an ocean of crumbling business districts anc creeping suburbs. They discard coats and hats, speak briefly to the cream of Charlotte's "liberal establishment," and gravitate to the inevitable cluster of people around Dan Berrigan, who by this time is fielding questions about prisons, sin and Jesuit theology. He's an intent listener, wrinkling his brow and stroking his salt-and-pepper beard during the questioning; answering abruptly, and, more often than not, incompletely. Extracting information from this Berrigan brother, in fact, is harder than kidnapping Henry Kissinger.

Question: "Father Berrigan, what was your most memorable experience while you were in prison?"

Answer: "When I almost died."

Long pause, while the questioner waits for explanation.

Question: "I have to ask -- how did you almost die?"

Answer: "I was given a wrong injection."

Another long pause, this time broken by Berrigan himself.

"My second most memorable experience," he says, deadpanning, "Was discovering that I hadn't died in prison."

Question: "We've heard a lot of ideas here tonight, and I was wondering if you could outline how a society based on your ideas and beliefs would differ from today's society?"

Answer: "No."

I give up for a while and head for the pea soup, leaving Berrigan to the latest cluster of newcomers ("Groupies," says one disgruntled guest later. "The man's surrounded by groupies'"). The Brobdingnagian rooms begin to vibrate with the strains of Simon and Garfunkel, and I retire to the nearly deserted living room to total up the weekend. Tomorrow Berrigan will fly back to New York, the conclusion of a whirlwind weekend tour through the landscape of central North Carolina -- "Have lunch with Daniel Berrigan" in Davidson, speaking engagements at Davidson College, High Point College and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Sunday morning sermon in Winston-Salem, assorted dinners and parties, including this final one, and one long Saturday afternoon in the state correctional institute at Huntersville.

The trip to Huntersville was a bonus -- the first time Berrigan has been allowed in a United States prison since he was released from the federal penitentiary in Danbury, Conn., two years ago. He served 18 months there for destroying draft records, a crime that made him an instant celebrity in some quarters and an enemy of the state in others. He later faced conspiracy charges in the dying thrusts of the Nixon government against the so-called subversive elements of the 1960s. His visit to Huntersville was arranged through a Vista community speakers program -- with Berrigan described as a prominent Jesuit theologian.

The little things about Huntersville strike you first, incongruities revealed in the shifting afternoon sunlight. The clock on the wall, compliments of Coble's Dairy Products, hangs a little lopsided; the five-and-dime cardboard sign tacked to the already crowded bulletin board -- "You don't have to be crazy to work here," it

(Continued on page six)

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On the road with Daniel Berrigan

(Continued from page five)

reads through a patina of dust. "But it helps." A second plaque hangs near the overloaded filing cabinet in the corner, hand-lettered cardboard in a cheap wood frame: "An ounce of loyalty is worth a pound of cleverness."

Dan Berrigan shivers in the autumn chill, pulling the well-used grey and white sweater a little tighter around his shoulders. He looks around the prison office for the dozenth time, taking in the cardboard platitudes, state prison memoranda and the ten-foot high, barbed-wire topped fence just outside the window, and, adjusting the sweater for the dozenth time, taps me on the shoulder.

"God," he says, leaning close. "It feels like old times in here."

And louder, for the benefit of a couple of guards leaning against the fence that separates the two worlds, "It's depressing to know that these places still exist."

The tinny roll of the yard's loudspeaker, a disembodied howl from some hidden oil drum from the sound of it, cuts Berrigan's comments short.

"Attention, attention," the voice pleas, "Father Daniel Berrigan, the noted Jesuit priest, will speak in the trailer in five minutes. If any of you men are interested in hearing Father Daniel Berrigan, come to the trailer."

One of the lounging guards opens the gate, and we stroll casually as possible into the prison yard. Berrigan undergoes a metamorphosis. The air of bemused indifference vanishes, replaced by a wary watchfulness. The prisoners move aimlessly around the small concrete yard, sometimes gravitating to the line forming at the telephone booths, sometimes standing at the fence staring across the autumn landscape, motions are muted. Sounds subdued. Laughter quickly hidden.

Berrigan watches the men, barely paying attention to the Vista volunteer's running commentary. Huntersville, the volunteer says, is a classification and transfer center, a brief home for around 175 men on their way to bigger and better things in the state prison system. The men in Huntersville stay only a couple of months, no time to cause any trouble. Berrigan nods and keeps watching. Huntersville used to be looser, the volunteer continues, but there were lots of escape attempts last year and things were tightened up.

Berrigan nods.

About a dozen prisoners show up at the trailer, which turns out to be a mobile home fitted with two long tables, florescent lights, desk lined against the wall, paperback books and the omnipresent bulletin board. Even the inmates' bulletin board hasn't escaped the camps mania for slogans. For the prisoners, there's the Jaycee Creed:

"That economic justice can best be won by free men through free enterprise,

"That government should be of laws rather than of men,

"That earth's greatest treasure lies in human personality."

Berrigan slumps down in a wooden chair at the head of the first table, slouches low, crosses his arms and adds to the already substantial silence in the room. After a properly theatrical pause, he shrugs.

"I don't have much to say," Berrigan says, stuffing his hands into his pockets. "You all know what I'm thinking."

The inmates shuffle noiselessly, glancing at the clock on the wall, glancing at each other.

"I think things are getting worse rather than better," Berrigan continues. "When we came out of Danbury, we didn't come out determined to obey the law. We knew we were going to jail when we burned those draft files. Many of us think that being in jail isn't so different from being outside."

That gets a few quiet snickers, a few knowing glances that pass from prisoner to prisoner like summer lightning. More quiet minutes pass, beneath the steady ticking of the clock. Finally, one of the prisoners ventures a comment.

"I read about you," said the straw-haired kid with the First Airborne tatoo on his right arm. "I never thought I'd talk to you."

Berrigan almost smiles, and tension whooshes out of the trailer like an exploding balloon.

"I mean, the public is being conned about these prisons," says one prisoner, a skinny kid with unruly hair. He was in Huntersville on a narcotics charge. "I mean, all these clubs come through here on tours, and you'd better believe we look like a model prison. How do we convince people on the outside that we're not bullshitting?"

He gestures to the other convicts in the room.

"After these people, and I'm including myself, get back out on the street," he says, "They want to forget this ever happened. They don't want to think about it."

Another convict -- Jeff, the schoolteacher -- picks up where the first speaker leaves off.

"We had some reporters in here a while back. When the reporters came through, they (the prison officials) locked everybody up and brought out four people with three or four weeks left in this place to talk to the press," Jeff says.

"They give out time like candy in North Carolina."

"Here we are in prison, and the biggest crook in the country goes free. What can you do?"

"And anybody who said anything bad lost their 'good time.' Sure, things looked just fine."

He looks like a college student, maybe a throwback to the radical days of the 1960s. He articulates the prisoners' case with ease, and more than a passing trace of bitterness. Before coming to Huntersville, Jeff was a schoolteacher in a small rural community, and when he was caught in possession of marijuana, the local judge decided to give the young people of the community a lesson they wouldn't soon forget -- Jeff got five years.

More prisoners drift in, and the trailer begins to feel crowded. Talking comes in bursts, punctuated with long pauses and knowing glances. Dan Berrigan, slouched at the head of the table, becomes more the moderator, coaxing and wheedling words from the prisoners, pushing the stumbling dialogue along.

"They give out time like candy in North Carolina," says Freddie, who adds that he's been around enough to know. He's getting out in a few weeks and heading back to Oregon, his home. But, he says, he's not going to be one of the prisoners who forgets.

"I've met a lot of very heavy people in prison," he says. "I don't think my conscience will let me forget about them. How do you cope with what's going on outside, though? Here we are in prison, man, and the biggest crook in the country goes free. What can you do?"

There's not much abusive treatment at Huntersville, another inmate adds, not waiting for Berrigan to answer. In fact, he says, there's not any treatment at all.

"There's nothing to do," he says. "There's not even a bench to sit on in the yard. They run us out of the dorm in the morning and we stand around until lunch. By then you don't care what you eat."

"If you have any problems, they send you to the shrink," Airborne tatoo chimes in. "And the shrink gives you a prescription for downers. At one time half the camp was on downers."

Half the camp is on downers now, a black convict says, and everybody breaks up. The opening of the trailer door silences the audience.

That's Sergeant Neil, a prisoner whispers. Sergeant Neil, I think, must have been cast as a guard in a B-movie. He's short, maybe five-foot six, skinny as a tomato stake and twice as rigid. His clothing is, of course, immaculate -- creased blue slacks and a lumberjack's jacket. His face is set in what must be a perpetual scowl.

"And frankly," Berrigan, whose back is to the sergeant, is saying, "I think it was an honor to have been in prison."

Sergeant Neil, having crossed the 12-foot length of the trailer and headed back to the door, stops dead in his tracks. His face puckers like an imploding lemon, running the gamut of expressions from astonishment to near loathing in record time. With a shake of his head and a sneer, he slams the door.

"That man doesn't like us," an older prisoner says.

"Naw," a black prisoner with a greying afro corrects, "He's not a bad guy -- just don't walk too close behind him. He's nervous-like, and if you get too close, he'll blow your brains out."

That gets another good laugh.

"If he sees more than a couple of us clustered in a group in the dorm," the young kid in on narcotics says, "He grabs a thirty-aught six from one of the guards and goes storming through the place, waving that rifle and scaring the shit out of everybody."

Another laugh.

Seriously though, Berrigan says, cutting off the laughter, the system isn't going to change any time soon. The prisons aren't going to change. The society isn't going to change. Only the prisoner himself can change.

"We can go on talking about this place forever," he says. "It comes down to what prisoners feel about themselves, how they feel about their own lives."

The trailer is quiet again, the prisoners subdued.

"What is the purpose of all this?" Freddie says, clenching his fists. "Reform? Rehabilitation? Revenge? Hell, a man comes in here with no trade, and what the hell is he going to learn? Sweeping the dorm? Raking the yard? Doing the laundry?"

There's been talk of a prisoners' union, Jeff says, but so far it's been just that -- talk.

"The morale -- the inmate morale -- here is really weak," the schoolteacher says. "People get transferred so much it's hard to get organized."

And, another prisoner adds, the people that try the hardest to get organized are the first to be transferred.

But, Berrigan persists, organization is secondary to the individual prisoner. Prisons, he says, are no different than the surrounding society. You want to know what a society is like, Dan Berrigan says, borrowing from Dostoyevsky, look at its prisons. Want to change the prison system, he asks? Then change the prisoners. All prisoners, Father Daniel Berrigan says, should be political prisoners.

"But there are a lot of prisoners who, when the chips are down, are more interested in property than human life," Berrigan says. "They're willing to screw people, just like society was willing to screw them. A political prisioner doesn't have the same values as the people who locked him up."

The trailer is crowded now, and the prisoners are enthused. He's right, a prisoner says, Berrigan's right. He had a cause.

"It's not what brought a man here," Berrigan says. "It's what he is now."

Jeff climbs off the front of a desk and takes a few steps forward.

"How can you expect a man to change his values in a system that corrupts a person as much as humanly possible? he says. "I think I came in here with morals of my own, some kind of sense of what's right and wrong. But for some of the inmates, bitterness is all powerful, and I'm at a loss to see how you can help someone.

"It's hard to tell someone they've been going the wrong way their whole lives," says Jeff, the schoolteacher. "I've learned more about myself in here than I would have ever learned outside. I've learned more about humanity. I'm glad I've been here."

Huntersville might as well be on the other side of the universe from the house in Myers Park, with its crackling fires and crystal chandeliers. I sip the pea soup, drink a little red wine and marvel that Dan Berrigan moves so easily between words. What does a person have to sacrifice, I think, for that kind of mobility?

Berrigan pops out of the crowded dining room, pea soup in hand, and grabs me by the arm.

Come on, he says, let's sit down and talk.

So we find a couple of empty chairs in front of a big bay window and sit down, all alone for the moment. I mentally run through all the questions I've accumulated over the past three days and carefully frame my first.

Dan, I say, you talked a lot about despair and the feeling of hopelessness you found on campuses. But we seemed to find exactly the opposite feeling in Huntersville -- a vitality that the intellectual community seems to lack. Would you say, looking back on the past decade, that change, if change is going to come, will have to come from the bottom up, from the Huntersvilles and Danburies and Atticas, and not from a relatively isolated intelligencia?

Berrigan takes a long drink of the soup, sets the cup down on a nearby table and picks up an aging chihuahua who happens to wander by.

"Did you know," Father Daniel Berrigan says, "That this dog is equivalent to 73 human years old? I mean, maybe we ought to start listening to him. If he's been around 73 years, he's probably very wise."

The dog wags his tail.

Politicus...

(Continued from page Two)

being suspended, and current officials' paychecks being withheld.

-- Statements of economic interest must include all of an official's financial interests, and real estate holdings of the officials or members of his household, involving "direct" dealings with governmental agencies; money received directly from state, county or municipal governments; money received from businesses or organizations that employ a lobbyist; and money from businesses regulated by the major state regulatory agencies, such as the PSC and the Insurance Commission.

--The Ethics Commission would be given the responsibility of reporting possible violations of the ethics law to the appropriate law enforcement agencies, in most cases the circuit solicitor. Four of the six commissioners would have to concur on a potential violation before notifying a law enforcement agency. The Commission itself could not determine legal guilt or innocence; furthermore, if the Commission investigated a complaint and found no evidence of possible violations, the matter would be removed from public record.

--Any citizen would be able to request, in writing, information that the Ethics Commission has on file. However, the Commission would be responsible for keeping a record of all persons who make such requests for information. This amendment, according to author Bill Campbell, was designed to appease Representatives who feared the information on file at the Ethics Commission might be used by anonymous persons to discredit public officials, as in an elective campaign.

--Violators of the ethics law would face possible fines up to $2,000 and jail sentences of up to two years. Additionally, anyone receiving money in direct violation of the law would pay a fine of *three times* whatever he earned illegally.

*****

On paper, the ethics bill approved by the House includes some strong clauses not already on the books, some of which would make unethical behavior and corruption easier to find and harder to conceal. Yet there are a number of shortcomings and loopholes which aren't likely to be eliminated either by the Senate or a joint conference committee.

Efforts were made, by Rep. James Moss (D-Beaufort) and others, to make it illegal for a public official to represent anyone before a regulatory agency that the official helps elect, regardless whether the official is paid or not. But the House resisted striking "for a fee" from the bill, several lawyer-legislators contending that they should be able to represent consumers for free before regulatory agencies. The amendment was unsuccessful. The obvious -- no one ever does anything without some kind of compensation, and that subsequently the absence of a monetary fee doesn't necessarily mean there's no possibility of conflict of interest -- somehow escaped the House.

A major shortcoming in Section 15 pertains to what must be disclosed on the statement of economic interest which each public official or candidate must file with the Ethics Commission. Members of an official's household (his immediate family who live with him) do not have to disclose any money they receive from state, county or local agencies or departments. Only the official himself must make such a revelation. Obviously, any money coming into an official's household could affect the way he votes or acts on a matter. But somehow the obvious again escapes the majority of House members.

Another drawback is the $100 minimum on campaign contribution disclosures. Donations under $100 do not have to be reported, thanks to an amendment by Rep. Irene Rudnick, thus opening a potential loophole whereby a political backer who wishes to remain anonymous could send in a flood of $90 contributions under other persons' names.

More than a few Representatives, however, would hesitate to call these "shortcomings" detrimental to the ethics bill. As one critic of the bill explained, "There are a lot of members who don't want the public to know how much they make. The poorer ones think people will feel they're stupid because they can't make a lot of money. And the rich ones don't want their constituents wondering where all that money came from."

Jarvis Klapman of Lexington is typical of many who opposed *any* ethics legislation whatsoever. In speaking against the bill shortly before its passage, Klapman explained with unusual lucidity, "We must be ethical, or the people wouldn't have elected us." He then rejoiced that eventually the ethics bill will be "watered down" to a more pleasant innocuousness.

One legislator who opposed ethics legislation once said he did so because "I'm not about to stand on the State House steps and yell, 'I'm a crook.' " But that's exactly what those legislators are really saying, when they oppose a bill to open up the system to public scrutiny.

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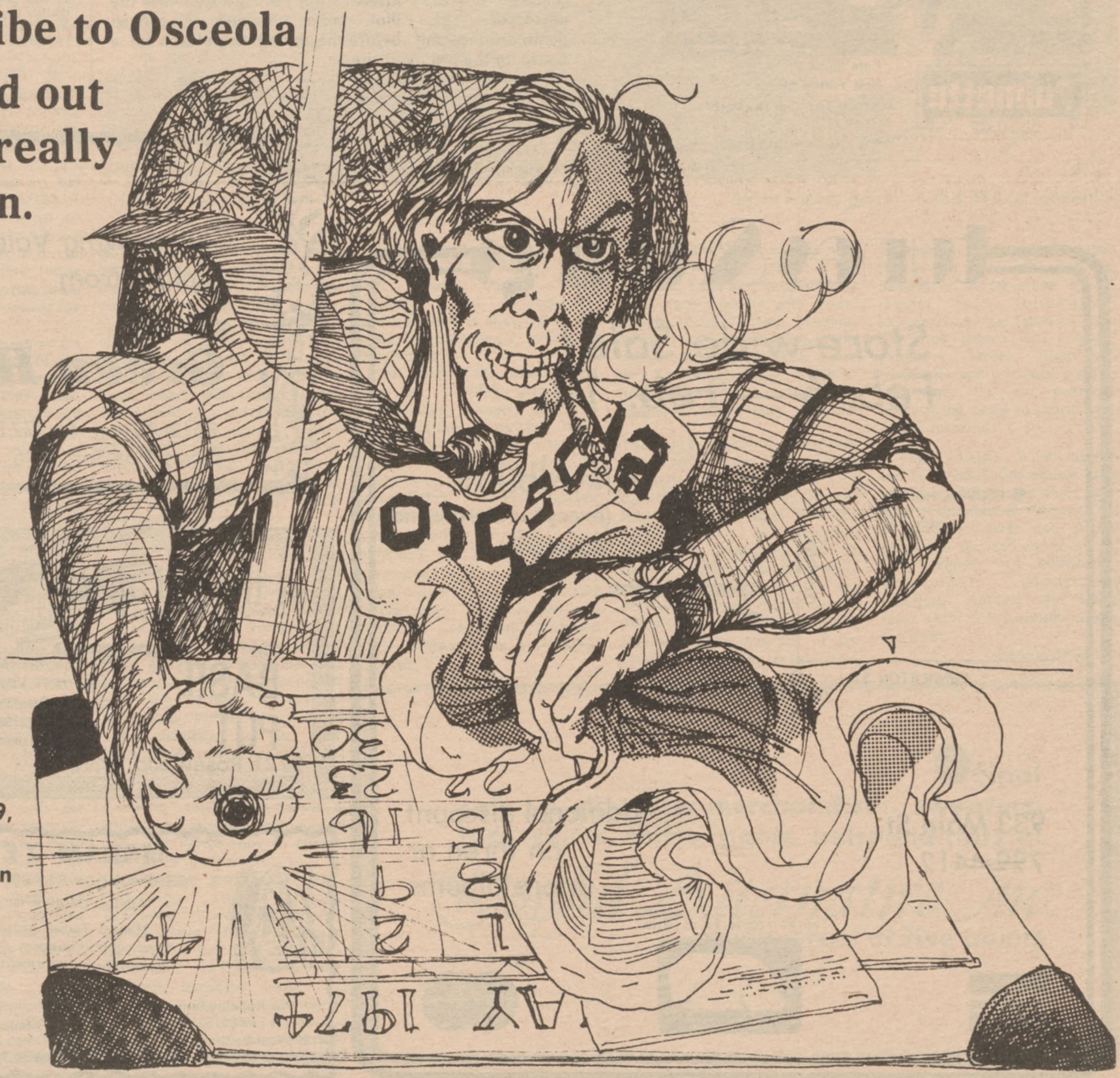

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Explore, enjoy and preserve...with the Columbia Sierra Club group. Monthly meetings and outings of all kinds. Everyone is welcome. For more info call 252-3119 or 782-5172.

Short Courses at Sparkleberry: "Basic Loom Weaving," beginning Feb. 22. "Designing and Building Your Own House," workshops: n. 28 thru Feb. 1, lab classes begin Feb. 8. For information and/or registration call 359-6723.

Society of Friends - Unprogrammed Quaker worship 11 a.m. Sunday at 3203 Bratton Street (rear). Information 254-2034.

Zoning review

The issuance of a building and zoning permit for a proposed highrise to be built at the corner of Blossom and Maple Streets, subject of a story by *Osceola* last week, will be reviewed by the Columbia Zoning Board of Adjustment at its March 11 meeting.

According to a Columbia City official, an appeal to the zoning permit was filed with the board on January 31 by Jean Toal, a Shandon resident and state representative from District 75.

In *Osceola's* issue of February 7, it was revealed that the permit was issued under questionable circumstances. The zoning permit was granted on December 31, 1974, one day before a new zoning code became effective that would have prohibited construction of the highrise at that site. *Osceola's* investigation also revealed that the developer, R.H. Elliot, never obtained an official demolition permit before beginning demolition of a house on the proposed site.

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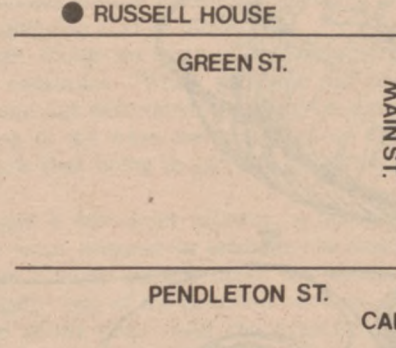

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Books

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Jericho: The South Beheld
Illustrations by Hubert Shuptrine, Text by James Dickey, Oxmoor Press, 165 p
$60.00

PHOTO BY LYNN CANSLER

James Dickey pickin': is this Biblical intensity?

"America's First Man of Letters," blurbs the dust jacket of *Jericho* in describing James Dickey, and while this is obviously a publisher's self-serving exaggeration, in the field of poetry it is probably true. Dickey's many virtues as a poet as well as some of his worst faults are now available in this book of words and pictures about the South, created in collaboration with painter Hubert Shuptrine. Both artist and poet have produced a moving celebration of the scenes and manners of Southern life that should give pleasure to any reader -- provided that reader does not expect too much. I will deal with Mr. Shuptrine's pictures shortly, but first some word on Mr. Dickey's text.

Vitality, strong imagery, a sense of "joy," and a sensual immediacy; these are some of the virtues of Dickey's poetry and they are readily evident in *Jericho*. The text is created as a series of "flickers," to use Dickey's term, brief passages of descriptive prose that flit from one place or subject to another. In the first section, "The Land and the Water" (the words and paintings are interspersed in blocks, neither intended as a comment on the other), the author asks the reader to imagine himself a ghost or spirit, viewing the subjects from a variety of perspectives and not just seeing but beholding (using the word in the Old English sense of taking hold of or possessing the observed).

Thus, in this first section we are carried on a broad tour of the land that moves in a geographic spiral from the Florida coast ("each oyster shell shimmers and leaps at an odd angle into your gaze") to a flower garden in Alabama ("old ladies fainting with vegetative rapture") to Texas ("you could lose everything you ever wanted to lose in this place") and finally winding back around to a terminus in Atlanta, Dickey's designated center for Jericho. The two subsequent sections take us "Among the People" and finally explore what is called "The Traditions Web."

In his previous work, Dickey's approach to poetry has been analogous to that stewardess in his "Falling," who on finding herself accidentally thrown out of an airliner, tears off her clothes and every evidence of civilization as she hurls toward a hysterical yet almost ecstatic union with the ground below. *Jericho* lacks the kind of intensity and complete abandonment to nature and experience that has characterized Dickey's poetry, but there is a certain charm to this conceit. One envisions Dickey puttering from state to state, entering a bar, a factory, or standing in a field and just *looking* (beholding).

There is also considerable charm to the "flickers" themselves, some of which are derived from earlier poems (the basic idea of the book takes off from "The Beholders," there is a variation on "In the Marble Quarry"), but the great majority of which are newly minted and freshly observed. Personal favorites are a visit with a country bank robber who terrorizes the world with cap pistols, and the description of a factory worker who had "got the noise of making automobiles beaten" by singing at the top of his lungs and "buck-dancing with the slowly whirling car frames."

Even though they are not intended to accompany each other, Hubert Shuptrine's watercolors are remarkably similar in style to Dickey's words. In the introduction, Dickey describes these pictures as being like life seen through a pair of binoculars; and the simile is entirely appropriate, for the excellence of these paintings lies in their concentration and focus on detail. This concentration may result in a pleasing and witty realism -- a "coondog" squinting in the sun, a whiskey jug stoppered with a corn cob -- or occasionally in effects that go beyond realism, such as the various studies of light: "Slanting Light," "Late Afternoon," "Hemlock Summit," and especially "Gentle Light-Cape Hatteras." Best of all are Shuptrine's realizations of the Southern landscape, usually by putting a stark, man-made object -- a ramshackle house or a barn -- in the midst of an otherwise completely natural setting. Such pictures as "Home Place," "Rice Mill," "Valley Farm," "Proud Sounder," and "Huntsman," come as close as anything in the book to expressing a quality of Southernness.

But good as the paintings and text are, I think there is a considerable danger here of overrating the, of trying to make more of this book than what it is. Dickey himself aggravates the problem by calling the book in his introduction, "two deep views of Jericho, that will not come -- or come together -- again." The statement is not only mildly immodest, it is entirely questionable. Are these in fact "deep views?" Have Dickey and Shuptrine beheld and projected their subject with a "Biblical intensity?"

I think not. The very title, with its suggestion of the South as the Promised Land and its inhabitants as the chosen people, goes several degrees further than Margaret Mitchell in mythologizing our region, and suggests little more than a rhetorical peg on which to hang the various observations and images. Dickey writes that the

"landscape, seascapes, mountains, rivers and people...These things are our significance." But isn't something else of significance? Isn't the South, more than any other part of America, inextricably bound up with its *past*? Faulkner, a profounder writer, realized this and saw the necessity to search into history to discover the whys of Southern life, the moral meaning of the present. In *Jericho*, Dickey's idea of tradition goes no further than recipes for fried okra and the imagery of Edgar Allan Poe. A master of "intensified" experience, he has failed to make the book cohere into a larger, expansive theme. Shuptrine's landscapes and portraits, good as they are, do not penetrate beneath the visual to provide any deeper meaning.

This complaint is not against the book itself, but against some of its assertions and those who would overpraise it. For what it is -- an affectionate and skillful tribute to the land and people of this region -- *Jericho* is thoroughly, consistently satisfying. Anyone who would make more of it is simply missing the point.

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Events/entertainment

continued from page 12

be at Carolina Coliseum February 17 for one performance only. For further information on the 8:15 show, call the Coliseum ticket office at 777-5113.

Winthrop College Theatre's production of "The Hamlet Thing," the story of Hamlet as seen by the Courtiers, will be staged in Winthrop College's Johnson Auditorium February 7, 13 and 14. Curtain time is 8 p.m. each evening and tickets are $.50 for Winthrop students and $1.50 for the general public. The box office will be open at 6:30 p.m. before each performance.

music

The Lenox String Quartet will perform at Clemson University's Tillman Hall Auditorium February 11 at 8 p.m. as part of the University's concert series. Admission will be granted to those with student activity cards, season tickets or individual tickets, which will be on sale at the door.

Lynnyrd Skynyrd, REO Speedwagon and Bonnie Bramlett will appear in concert at Clemson's Littlejohn Coliseum February 8 at 9 p.m. Tickets are $5.25 in advance and $6.25 at the door.

Kids' Korner

The USC Department of Art will sponsor Saturday morning art classes for children for eight weeks beginning March 1.

Three classes, for 7-8 year olds, 9-10 year olds and 11-12 year olds, will be offered from 9 to 11 a.m. in Sloan College on campus. The classes will include a variety of art experiences allowing each child to work individually with different media. Materials fee for the eight sessions will be $20 per child. Further information and application forms are available from Cynthia Jackson at the Department of Art by calling 777-4236 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. daily. Applications should be submitted by Feb. 21.

lectures

Psychologist Dr. Joyce Brothers will speak at Clemson University's Tillman Hall Auditorium February 12. The program is sponsored by the University Speakers Bureau.

Clemson University will host two speakers February 19 as part of the College of Liberal Arts Lecture Series "Perspective on American Violence and Aggression." Psychologist Robert M. Liebert, principal researcher for the U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory Committee on Television, will speak on "Determining the Effects of TV Violence;" and Psychologist Seymour Feshbach, internationally recognized authority on aggression, will give a lecture entitled "Mass Media Effects: Some General Issues in the Regulation of Aggression."

specials

The annual Winthrop College Invitational Basketball Tournament will take place February 13 through 15. The 12 teams in the competition are: University of Tennessee (last year's winner), Anderson College, East Carolina, College of Charleston, Georgia, Appalachian State, East Tennessee State, Furman, UNC-Greensboro, the University of South Carolina, Western Carolina and Winthrop. All will be played in Winthrop's Peabody and Withers Gymnasiums and are open to the public free of charge.

The South Carolina Arts Commission has published a Directory of Performing Musicians in an effort to acquaint potential sponsors with the work of musicians in the state. The publication includes 93 entries of soloists and groups who perform classical, contemporary, folk country, jazz, rock, popular and blues music. Addresses of the performers are listed, and interested sponsors may contact the individual or group directly. Directories are available free of charge from the South Carolina Arts Commission, 829 Richland Street, Columbia, 29201.

Up With People, a traveling musical troupe, will perform in Columbia's Township Auditorium February 11, 12 and 13. The group of 100 performers from all over the world and between the ages of 17 and 25 is only one of three casts which travel around the world. The two-hour program will feature singing and dancing to a selection of music that includes everything from rock to classical to blues. Tickets for the performance are $2 for students and children and $3.50 for adults.

Winthrop College's Joynes Center for Continuing Education, in cooperation with the South Carolina Commission on the Status of Women, will host a conference entitled "Today's Executive – Women Move Into Management" February 20 through 22. Keynote speakers are two leaders in the women's movement, Caroline Bird and Elizabeth Janeway. The purpose of the conference is to deal with the problems peculiar to women as managers, to help women develop managerial skills important to all good executives, and to create a network of information and support for women in executive positions in Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida. 25 outstanding women leaders will attend the conference to head various workshops and discussions. For further information contact Joynes Center for Continuing Education, Winthrop College, Rock Hill, 29733 or phone (803) 323-2196.

classes

The Richland Art School of the Columbia Museum of Art is offering two twelve-week classes in China Painting. The Saturday class, which begins February 15, will meet from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. and the Monday class, which starts February 17, will meet from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Class sizes are limited and admission will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. For further information call the Columbia Museum of Art, 799-2810.

A two-day workshop in letter and report writing will be held at Clemson University March 6 and 7. There is a $130 registration fee and the deadline for registration is February 21. The workshop is open to anyone who wishes to attend. Details are available at the Professional Development Office, Clemson University, telephone 656-2200.

television

Saturday, February 8

1 p.m. - College Basketball. USC vs. the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame at Notre Dame. (Channel 10)

3 p.m. - College Basketball. The Maryland Terrapins meet the Duke Blue Devils in an ACC game at Durham, N.C. (Channel 10)

5 p.m. - Bob Hope Desert Classic. (Channel 10)

9 p.m. - Movie. Alfred Hitchcock's "Frenzy." (Channel 25)

9 p.m. - Movie. "Cool Hand Luke" stars Paul Newman as a defiant chain gang prisoner. (Channel 10)

9:30 p.m. - Theatre in America. D.H. Lawrence's "The Widowing of Mrs. Holroyd."

Sunday, February 9

3 p.m. - NBA Basketball. The New York Knicks play the Celtics at Boston Garden. (Channel 19)

5 p.m. - Bob Hope Desert Classic. (Channel 10)

8:30 p.m. - Masterpiece Theatre. An adaptation of A.E. Coppard's short story, "The Black Dog." (Channel 35, ETV)

10:30 p.m. - Ascent of Man. Part 4 traces the beginnings of chemistry in the discovery of copper, bronze and gold. (Channel 35, ETV)

11:15 p.m. - Movie. "Jane Eyre," the Charlotte Bronte classic starring Joan Fontaine and Orson Welles. (Channel 19)

Monday, February 10

9 p.m. - Movie. "The Legend of Lizzie Borden" is a 1975 TV movie about the New England spinster accused of the axe murders of her father and stepmother in 1892. (Channel 25)

9 p.m. - Movie. "Cold Sweat" is 1971 melodrama starring Charles Bronson and Liv Ullmann. (Channel 10)

9 p.m. - Ascent of Man. See Sunday, 10:30 for details. (Channel 35, ETV)

Tuesday, February 11

8:30 p.m. - Movie. Trial of Chaplain Jensen," a 1975 TV movie based on a true story of a Navy chaplain who faced a court-martial on charges of adultery. (Channel 25)

9 p.m. - Hollywood Television Theatre. "Requiem For a Nun," William Faulkner's intense drama of sin and redemption. (Channel 35, ETV)

Wednesday, February 12

8 p.m. - College Basketball. Georgia Southern plays South Carolina in Columbia. (Channel 10)

9 p.m. - College Basketball. The Blue Devils meet the North Carolina Tar Heels in an ACC game at Chapel Hill, N.C. (Channel 19)

9 p.m. - America. America's Emergence as a military giant during World War II is recounted by Alistair Cooke. (Channel 35, ETV)

10 p.m. - Sandburgh's Lincoln. Hal Holbrook stars in "Sad Figure, Laughing," the second in a six-part series based on Carl Sandburgh's Pulitzer Prize-winning biography. (Channel 10)

Thursday, February 13

9 p.m. - Movie. Tony winner Maureen Stapleton stars in "Queen of the Stardust Ballroom," a 1975 TV movie that blends drama with music. (Channel 19)

11:30 p.m. - Wide World Special. A profile of Charles M. Manson, who was convicted in 1971 for the 1969 Tate murder. (Channel 25)

Friday, February 14

9:30 p.m. - Masterpiece Theatre. See Sunday 9:30 for details. (Channel 35, ETV)

10:30 p.m. - Romantic Rebellion. Host Kenneth Clark discusses the career of Spanish artist Francisco Goya. (Channel 35, ETV)

11:30 p.m. - Wide World in Concert. Hits from the past are performed by the Four Tops, Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, Jay and the Americans and Martha Reeves. (Channel 25)

1 a.m. Midnight Special. Neil Sedaka, Todd Rundgren and the Spinners are guests. (Channel 10)

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NATIONAL TOPICS

TRB
FROM WASHINGTON

The war continues

The funny little yellow men in black pajamas are still fighting in Vietnam with our help. This is the 29th year. Should we keep the war going any longer? If Congress cuts off aid hostilities probably will stop. Communists will win. How bad is that?

Dulles called Laos "a bastion of the free world" in 1960. "The security of South Vietnam remains vital to United States security," said a Taylor-McNamara report in 1963. Even "the Philippines would become shaky" if South Vietnam lost, said McNamara again in 1964 -- with a threat to Indonesia, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand and Japan. Is it possible that we once believed that? Yes, we did. *Time* magazine believed that, Joe Alsop believed that. Great men, famous men, Dulles, Rusk, Bundy, Westmoreland, Goldwater, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon believed that, or said they did. If you didn't believe that and said so you were probably a subversive.

This year is the 10th anniversary of when our part in the thing really started. Everything goes back to 1965. It was then that we first really hit the tar baby. It was then that we landed two combat battalions of marines as the start of an army that would ultimately reach 525,000. It was then that we began to bomb -- "Rolling Thunder" was the poetic title for it. It was then that Lyndon Johnson began to fake his budget statistics to disguise how much it was costing, and it was then that his alarmed economists in the Council of Economic Advisers -- Ackley, Eckstein, Okun -- began to implore him, for God's sake, to raise taxes -- inflation is going to get out of hand! It got out of hand. Today's inflation started 10 years ago.

This is another anniversary too; two years ago -- January 27, 1973 -- Kissinger finally produced his Vietnam peace treaty signed in Paris, the one that now produces another agonizing challenge to the United States. For, of course, it hasn't produced peace. Masses of new U.S. equipment and ammunition were delivered to Saigon just before the formal truce. What happened then? Maynard Parker, former Hong Kong and Saigon bureau chief for *Newsweek* and now managing editor, *Newsweek International*, writes in the January issue of prestigious *Foreign Affairs*, "I am inclined to conclude that the South Vietnamese were the more guilty party." It appears he says, "that they never really intended to implement the truce." The Communists by contrast, he thinks, supposed that there would be at least a period of peace and were unprepared for -- and staggered by -- the aggressiveness of the government's operations." He adds, "Almost from the moment the agreement was signed, President Thieu took to the offensive."

Maynard Parker seems to be reasonably objective; at least at the end he concludes that the United States ought to keep on paying out money to Thieu: "there is something deeply wrong," he thinks, in cutting off the lifeline without which the Thieu regime would admittedly shortly collapse.

How many Americans agree with this? How many more artificial hearts are we willing to inplant? The Ford administration is asking for around a billion and a half dollars in 1975 for Thieu in military and aid, and another chunk in economic aid. It acknowledges that it is making reconnaissance flights. Congress, which can't quite bring itself to say no, may cut the sum again to $700 million. Meanwhile a group of well known denominational leaders, Methodists, Catholics, Hebrews, Friends, Episcopalians, demanded in Washington last weekend that American aid finally stop: "We are still militarily involved and we interfere continuously," they said, "providing more than 80 percent of the Saigon government budget."

Sooner or later we are going to have to face reality. It is a brutal reality. But when we face it it will mean perhaps that America has finally come of age. Denis Brogan once wrote, "probably the only people who have the historical sense of inevitable victory are the Americans." We are not fighting now to win the war, I think. We are fighting to save face. We were lied to about the war, from the make-believe Tonkin Gulf incident that gave the President blanket congressional authority to wage the struggle with only two negative votes, to the stealthy build-up of troops and treasure that ultimately cost us 56,000 U.S. lives.

"But if we pull out won't it go Communist?" asked Arthur Goldberg on a mission from Lyndon Johnson in June 1966, to tell de Gaulle of the escalation. "Yes, it will go Communist," said de Gaulle. "But isn't that against us?" asked Goldberg. "Yes," replied de Gaulle, "but it will be a messy kind of communism." And, as David Halberstam tells the story, he added, "Not a Russian or even a Chinese kind of communism. An Asian kind. It will be more of a problem for them than for us."

It is still too close to Vietnam to write about it objectively. Maybe we will have to hit the tar baby a few more times. But will our descendants believe it? Vice President Johnson calling Diem "the Winston Churchill of Southeast Asia." (We toppled Diem in 1963.) The devices that would win the war in "six months": bombing, strategic hamlets, enclaves, napalm, defoliation, free-fire zones, Cambodian sanctuaries. All the brilliant planning that defied common sense. The macabre perplexity: after the Mylai massacre a few small children were still running about and the soldiers gave them candy.

Always we fought a political war as though it were a military war. In 1945 Ho Chi Minh proclaimed the Republic of Vietnam and next year civil war broke out -- 29 years ago. The little country has been fighting since. In 1954 Dulles sent a messenger to tell the late Sen. Russell of the Armed Services Committee that he was sending in 200 advisers, and funding the country. "I think this is the greatest mistake this country has ever made," said Russell. "I couldn't be more opposed." Then he added, "But tell Dulles that if he does it, I will never raise my voice."

Always patriotic; never contradict the commander-in-chief. Lyndon Johnson lacked money to fund the Great Society and figuratively shoveled into the Vietnam furnace parts of his program to aid blacks, the poor, the oppressed -- they fueled the distant war. And when it is all over maybe we will write, as Barbara Tuchman sadly did in her book on Gen. Stilwell -- "In the end China went her own way as if the Americans had never come."

JACK ANDERSON
AND THE WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Ford knows his autos

WASHINGTON — President Ford's new economic package could well be stamped "Made in Detroit."

The auto industry was exempted from meeting the new clean-air standards and it will profit the most from the President's tax rebate plan.

The car makers' good fortune is no surprise to those who know Gerald Ford. A native of Michigan, the home of the auto industry, he was weaned in the cradle of America's car culture. Auto executives number among his best friends.

Rodney W. Markley, for example, is the chief Washington lobbyist for the Ford Motor Co. and is a frequent golfing companion of the President. Markley was on his way to the French Riviera when he learned that his friend was to be sworn in as the 38th President. He rushed back in time for a gathering that evening in the Ford home.

As House minority leader, Gerald Ford religiously supported the policies of President Richard Nixon. But there was one exception. Ford made a rare break with Nixon to marshall the votes against opening the highway trust fund for mass transit aid -- a move also opposed by the auto industry.

There is nothing sinister in all this. But it is clear that President Ford is sympathetic to the views of the auto makers.

His loyalty will soon be tested again. The Big Three, it seems, want the government to reduce bumper standards. The car kings say that bumpers which will absorb a five-mile-an-hour impact are too heavy. They want bumpers that take no more than a three-mile-an-hour crash.

The motor moguls say they want to save gas. But many critics believe the automakers want to get what they can while they have a friend in the White House.

Hounding Henry

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger will have Congress watching over his shoulder for the next two years.

Idaho's Sen. Frank Church, chairman of the new committee to investigate intelligence agencies and the number two man on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has told friends privately he's going to start doing some muckraking in the State Department. Other congressional leaders are also preparing to keep a sharper eye on foreign policy.

Under Church's prodding, for example, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will demand to know why they weren't told about U.S. reconnaissance flights over Vietnam. They also intend to review whether this is a violation of the restrictions which Congress placed last year on U.S. military activity in Vietnam.

On the House side, Foreign Affairs chairman Thomas Morgan is planning a comprehensive review of military aid. Both the Senate and House committees will closely examine the Vladivostok agreement between President Ford and Soviet party leader Leonid Brezhnev. And a full review of U.S. policy in the Middle East is almost certain.

In the months to come, it looks as if Kissinger's most excruciating diplomacy will take place on Capitol Hill.

Closet Hawk

In private conversations, President Ford often talks like a hawk. He doesn't think the United States should knuckle under to the oil potentates. It wasn't Secretary of State Kissinger, it was the President himself, who raised the possibility of military intervention to prevent the economic strangulation of the West by oil powers.

The President is also determined to support South Vietnam and South Korea against the Communist threat. He has complained about a congressional limit on military aid to Saigon. This, he protested, would deprive Kissinger of his bargaining power to get the Russians and Chinese to hold down their arms shipments to North Vietnam.

But Ford has made clear in his private conversations that he will never send American troops back to Vietnam. The whispers of U.S. military action against North Vietnam are completely false, the President has told friends. He may favor increased military aid for Saigon, he said, but on the question of U.S. military involvement there, he is a dove.

Prep School

Association with the Rockefeller family, it appears, is good training for secretaries of state. Everyone knows, of course, that Henry Kissinger was once an adviser to now Vice President Nelson Rockefeller. Less well remembered is the fact that John Foster Dulles was once chairman of the board of the Rockefeller Foundation and Dean Rusk was actually the foundation's president.

Devious Spooks

A reporter who was invited to lunch at the CIA a couple of years ago agreed to having his picture taken with the agency's press officer. Now, it turns out, the reporter was under CIA surveillance at the time and he suspects the photographs were taken to help the agency's gumshoes identify him.

Loser's Haven

For five years, American Samoa has been governed by a man of dubious talent named John Haydon. He is now leaving, but the Interior Department has named another loser, defeated Republican Rep. Earl Ruth, to replace him. Ruth has never been to American Samoa and had never, to our knowledge, shown any interest in the colony. His only qualification seems to be a World War II friendship with President Ford.

Washington Whirl

South Korea, say our sources, will be the next nation to extend full diplomatic recognition to the Palestinian Liberation Organization...Book publishers are speculating that twin "bombs" of the coming months will be former Vice President Spiro Agnew's novel and former President Nixon's memoirs.

EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Edited by Melissa Pruitt

February 7-14

cinema

If you're thinking of a movie, better call ahead to verify time and feature since many area theatres are subject to change after our deadline.

ATLANTIC I THEATRE, 3220 Two Notch Road, 786-0790

"TNT Jackson" is a karate expert, sharpshooter and over-all big bad mama. Rated R with shows at 3:30, 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30.

ATLANTIC II THEATRE, 3220 Two Notch Road, 786-0790

"Female Emancipation" is the porno industry's version of Women's Lib plus a second X-rated hit, "Fantasy Girls." The fun is continuous from 3:15 with the last complete feature at 8:15.

CAROLINA THEATRE, 1223 Main Street, 252-8011

"TNT Jackson," rated R. Shows at 1:30, 3, 4:30, 6, 7:30 and 9.

CINE-ART THEATRE, 1017 Washington Street, 779-3039

"The Moonshine Girls" is on tap with a second feature also slated, beginning at 1 p.m. daily. Rated X.

DUTCH SQUARE NORTH THEATRE, Dutch Square Mall, 789-1110

"Challenge to be Free" is a nature film for the whole family. Rated G, show times are 2, 4, 6 and 8. On Saturday there is also a 12 noon show.

DUTCH SQUARE SOUTH THEATRE, Dutch Square Mall, 789-1110

Mel Brooks' "Blazing Saddles" is making another comeback. Rated R with shows at 1:40, 3:30, 5:20, 7:10 and 9.

FOX THEATRE, 1607 Main Street, 254-5212

"WW and the Dixie Dance Kings," rated PG, stars Burt Reynolds, Art Carney, Jerry Reed and Connie Van Dyke. This is a country-western version of Robin Hood. Shows at 1:40, 3:30, 5:20, 7:10 and 9.

"Murder on the Orient Express" begins February 7 at the Richland Mall 1

GAMECOCK I THEATRE, Parkland Plaza Shopping Center, 796-0022

"The Dove," rated PG is held over. Shows at 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30.

GAMECOCK II THEATRE, Parkland Plaza Shopping Center, 796-0022

"WW and the Dixie Dance Kings," rated PG. Show times are 1:40, 3:30, 5:20, 7:10 and 9.

JEFFERSON SQUARE THEATRE, Jefferson Square, Downtown, 254-6731

Disaster hits in "Earthquake" and the audience, as well as the actors, feel it thanks to Sensurround. Charlton Heston is still trying to decide if he should be a heroic husband and attempt to save his wife, who is swept away in a flood, or be a happy lover and stay with his mistress. Rated G, feature times are 2, 4:30, 7 and 9:30.

MIRACLE THEATRE, 1228 Main Street, 256-1950

Mel Brooks has got another movie out, "Young Frankenstein," rated PG. Shows at 1, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15 and 9:25. The midnight show February 7 and 8 is "Mean Streets."

PALMETTO THEATRE, 1417 Main Street, 254-5800

"The Towering Inferno," rated PG, is still burning at 2, 5 and 8. The Friday and Saturday (February 7 and 8) 11:15 double feature late show is "Journey Through the Past" and "We are an American Band."

PLAZA THEATRE, 1323 Main Street, 254-7960

"The Godfather Part II" continues. Al Pacino gives an outstanding performance in the lead role. Rated R, show times are 1, 4:45 and 8:30.

RICHLAND MALL I THEATRE, Richland Mall, 782-2228

"Murder on the Orient Express," rated PG, is an Agatha Christie mystery starring Sean Connery, Vanessa Redgrave, Lauren Becall, Ingrid Bergman and Richard Widmark. Check with the theatre for show times. The February 7 and 8 11:15 p.m. late show is "Pink Floyd."

RICHLAND MALL II THEATRE, Richland Mall, 782-2228

"Freebie and the Bean," rated R, starring Alan Arkin, James Caan and Valerie Harper continues. Check with the theatre for feature times.

theatre

Bus Stop, the comedy by Pulitzer Prize winning playwright William Inge, will be presented in the University of South Carolina's Drayton Hall Theatre, February 12 through 15. Tickets are $1 for students, $2 for faculty and $3 for all others. Reservations can be made by calling 777-2551. Tickets can be purchased prior to the performance at the Drayton Hall box office between noon and 5 p.m. daily and one hour before curtain time during the week of the performance.

Indians, a drama by Arthur Kopit that examines the events leading up to the 1890 massacre at Wounded Knee, South Dakota, will

(Continued on page ten)

3 Shows Daily at 1:00 4:45 8:30

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